10/8/71

Dear Ned and Gary,

As no doubt was clear from what I amiled you for other reasons when I went into town and to the bank tonight, this was not one of my better days. I am still uncomfortable and uneasy, hence am enegaged in nothing that could be considered literary pursuit. Were my back not out, I'd be doing some physical work in the cellar to ease it away. Instead, after I write this, I'll read some stinking literary garbage I suppose I should finish, Seigenthaler's.

My chief purpose in writing now is because I feel you may be concerned about the financial problems I face, the payment on principle the bank wanted. It was more disturbing to me because as of now, in addition to all the earlier sums of which I have been cheated, O&D owe me more than $4,000 and an insurance company owes me over $3,500 and has offered but $2,500, which I can accept without the effort to get the full amount outside of court. Their estimate is based on an incomplete survey, and I've had a survey made, byt the contractor has been too busy to finalize it for me to produce-for something like four months!.

So, aside from O&D, this is not a genuine crisis. It is a problem of timing, for there is no doubt I'll get the $2,500, which will take care of the pronciple and interest payment and a little more.

Fortunately, my local reputation and relations are both good and there was no real problem with the bank. I hate this because it means I'm not really keeping my word and because the bank has always been very good to me. I hate having to feel the way I do about it, having to owe money when I should be liquid and would be were it not for the endless cheating about which I can do nothing.

So, the bank will give me whatever time I need, and aside from the reflection it will leave of not keeping my comitments promptly, it will cost me only the added interest of 7½%.

Lil had buried the interest in some magical way. It cleaned us but I did pay that quarterly instalment and that is a problem I will not face again until January. Somehow, it will turn up, I'm sure. Thus I am very glad that Gary did not pay what he owed earlier, for I cashed that tonight and by that much we are not broke. And thanks for the extra $4.00.

So, in the letter that was supposed to make CW think and also be a bit ashamed, this part is not an immediate worry. I don't want you to worry about it. It is enough that two do without others being distracted by it.

I suppose it is only natural that this combination of experiences in a single day depresses. In the past, I generally have snapped out of it overnight. Tomorrow I hope to get to considering the suggestions others have made for the two earlier parts of PM. I do not know how much typing of the corrections she will find as she reads what she had just done Lil will do tomorrow, for her hand bothered her today and tonight. But we have a record to go on: she always does it well and rapidly.

With the money from Gary's check, I think I'll have enough for the trip to DC next week to get the xeroxing done. Perhaps if I can schedule it in advance I can make the same trip do for the copyrighting if I make it available first, w ich is a simple matter. I'll keep you both posted.

I have a notion each of you may be inclined to worry about me. May I suggest that you not do so unless I say I can stand a bit of extra owrrying?

Best regards,